

DISTRICT INVESTIGATION

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

YESTERDAY.

ADDITIONAL CHARGES AGAINST THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS—THE OLD STORY—MR. LATTI AND MR. WILSON DECIDE TO ANSWER IRRELEVANT QUESTIONS—MR. WILSON WITHDRAWS FROM THE ROLL OF MEMORIALS.

FIRST DAY.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 23, 1874.

The committee met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Senator Allison, Chairman; Senators Thurman, Stewart; Representatives Wilson, Hubbard, Rice, Hamilton.

The Chairman, I have a communication, Judge Merrick, addressed to the committee, which I will call the clerk to read.

The clerk then read the following communication:

MR. JOHN PERRY WANTS HIS NAME REPAIRED FROM THE ROLL.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 23, 1874.

DR. W. M. A. LITTLE, Chairman of the Joint Select Committee to Investigate into the Affairs of the District of Columbia.

Sir: I am one of the memorialists upon whom complaint was made by the committee.

Being a large owner of real estate in the District of Columbia, and finding my name variously inserted under the improvement system, I became nettled, and, in talking upon the subject with citizens similarly situated and who felt as I did, I began to feel that I had a serious grievance, and was in this mood of mind when I signed the memorial, and I put my name to it without due reflection. In turning the whole matter over in my mind, I cannot fix upon a single act of the present Board of Public Works which would authorize the committee to say that there was anything morally wrong in it.

In my judgment they have made mistakes, but as I do not claim to be infallible, I am willing to make allowance for possible error on my own opinion.

On mature consideration of the whole subject I have come to the conclusion to ask the honorable committee, of which you are chairman, to have my name erased from the memorial.

It is an act of justice which I owe myself, as well as to the gentlemen whose names are on the memorial.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant, JOHN PERRY.

The Chairman. That letter will be placed among our documents. I believe, Judge Merrick, you were to have your charges and specifications read this morning, and we shall ask each of you, of course, to complete them and such as we shall present. I may state that we have a series of them.

The Chairman. When will you be ready with them?

Mr. Merrick. I cannot say when we will be ready with them, but we have quite a number of them here, which will occupy the attention of the committee for some time.

The Chairman. The committee will hear what you have.

Mr. Merrick. Shall we read them?

[Mr. Merrick read as follows:]

The Joint Select Committee to Investigate into the Affairs of the District of Columbia.

Second Charge.—That said Board of Public Works have been guilty of the following charges:

1. "Evans' concrete pavement" increased from \$2.50 to \$3.50 per square yard.

2. "Fibers' concrete pavement" increased from \$2.50 to \$3.50 per square yard.

3. "Hillier's concrete pavement" increased from \$2.50 to \$3.50 per square yard.

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THE NATIONAL CENTENNIAL

STRONG APPEAL TO CONGRESS FOR GOVERNMENT AID.

MEMORIAL OF LEADING NEW YORK BUSINESS MEN—CONGRESS ASKED TO FACILITATE THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION LETTER TO THE SENATE APPROPRIATION COMMITTEE.

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